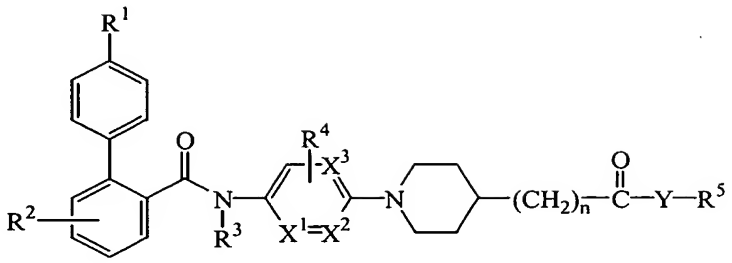
Claims

1. A compound of formula (I)



(I),

the *N*-oxides, the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts and the stereochemically isomeric forms thereof, wherein

R^1 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, halo, or polyhaloC_{1-4}alkyl;

R^2 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, halo, or polyhaloC_{1-4}alkyl;

R^3 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl;

R^4 is hydrogen, C_{1-4}alkyl, or halo;

n is an integer zero or 1;

X^1 and X^2 are either both carbon, or when one of X^1 or X^2 is nitrogen, than the other X^1 or X^2 is carbon;

X^3 is carbon, or nitrogen provided that only one of X^1 or X^2 is nitrogen;

Y is O or NR^6 wherein R^6 is hydrogen or C_{1-4}alkyl; and

R^5 is hydrogen; C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyloxy, cyano, polyhaloC_{1-4}alkyl, or aryl; C_{2-6}alkenyl optionally substituted with aryl; C_{3-6}alkynyl optionally substituted with aryl; aryl or heteroaryl;

aryl is phenyl; phenyl substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from nitro, azido, cyano, halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, polyhaloC_{1-6}alkyl, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino;

heteroaryl is pyridinyl, pyrazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyl, triazinyl, triazolyl, imidazolyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, isothiazolyl, oxazolyl, pyrrolyl, furanyl, or thienyl; and optionally substituted with one, two or three substituents each independently selected from nitro, azido, cyano, halo, hydroxy, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl, C_{1-4}alkyloxy, polyhaloC_{1-4}alkyl, amino, mono- or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X^1, X^2 and X^3 are carbon.

3. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X^1 is carbon, X^2 is nitrogen, and X^3 is carbon.

4. A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X^1 is nitrogen, X^2 is carbon, and X^3 is carbon.

5. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 wherein n is the integer zero.

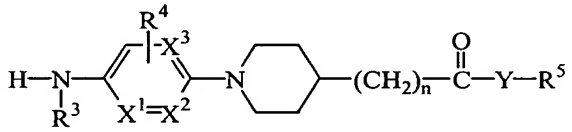
6. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 n is the integer 1.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6.

8. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 7 wherein a therapeutically active amount of a compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 is intimately mixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

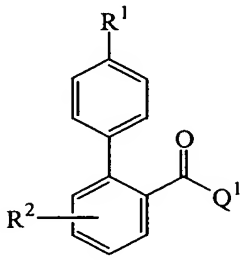
9. A compound as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 for use as a medicine.

10. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
a) an intermediate of formula (II), wherein R^3, R^4, R^5, n, Y, X^1, X^2 and X^3 are defined as in claim 1,



(II)

is reacted with a biphenylcarboxylic acid or halide having the formula (III), wherein R^1 and R^2 are as defined in formula (I) and Q^1 is selected from hydroxy and halo, in at least one reaction-inert solvent and optionally in the presence of a suitable base



(III)

b) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into an acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.